

REMARKS**I. Status of the Application**

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the very helpful telephone interview of September 17, 2003 with the undersigned and Mr. Phillip McGarrigle during which the proposed amendments to the claims were discussed in view of Deeg (US 5,378,638). No agreement was reached, however, the Examiner suggested that the applicants file the present amendment after final rejection for formal consideration.

Claims 48-207 are presently pending in the application. Claims 148-207 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 48-91, 93-116 stand rejected as being obvious over Pirrung (WO/90/15070) in view of Southern (WO 89/10977) and Hayes (US 4,877,745) and Prats (US 4,937,593). Claims 48, 82, and 92 stand rejected as being obvious over Pirrung in view of Sanz and Meltzer. Claims 48-91-93-118 and 120-146 stand rejected as being obvious over Deeg (US 5,378,638) in view of Pirrung and Prats. Claims 48, 82, 92, 117, 119 and 147 stand rejected as being obvious over Deeg in view of Pirrung and Sanz and Meltzer.

Applicants believe that the current claims are patentable over the references for all the reasons previously stated in their earlier amendment. However, they are presenting the current amendments to facilitate prosecution of the claims.

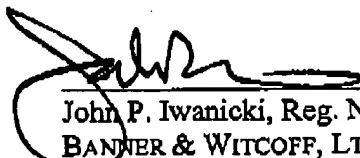
Applicants have amended the independent claims to clarify that the methods are directed to the making of an array of ligands. Support for the amendment is found at page 6 lines 24-31 where ligands are discussed. Such ligands include nucleic acids and polypeptides. The independent claims have also been amended to recite individual localized areas. Support for the amendment is found at page 25 line 25 which identifies individual reaction regions. Localized areas are alternatively referred to in the application at page 10 lines 1-5 as reaction regions. The independent claims further recite a density of localized areas on the support of at least about

1000 localized areas per cm^2 of surface of the support. Support for the amendment is found at page 25 lines 32-35. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

None of the references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest the subject matter as now claimed. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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